

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled).

13. (New) A wiper control method comprising:

driving a motor connected to a wiper arm so as to rotate the motor in a forward direction and a reverse direction to thereby reciprocate the wiper arm so as to perform a wiping operation;

controlling said driving of the motor according to an absolute position signal and a relative position signal, the absolute position signal being output when the wiper arm is located at a predetermined position, and the relative position signal being output as a function of the rotation of the motor; and

reversing a direction of rotation of the motor according to the absolute position signal without using the relative position signal when the relative position signal becomes abnormal.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the absolute position signal is output when the wiper arm is at a first reference position near an upper turning point, and when the wiper arm is at a second reference position near a lower turning point; and

when the relative position signal becomes abnormal, the direction of rotation of the motor is reversed according to the absolute position signal output at the first reference position and the absolute position signal output at the second reference position.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising reversing the direction of rotation of the motor after a predetermined time period has elapsed since the last absolute position signal was output.

16. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising reversing the direction of rotation of the motor when the absolute position signal is output.

17. (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising reversing the direction of rotation of the motor after a predetermined time period has elapsed since the last absolute position signal was output.

18. (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising reversing the direction of rotation of the motor when the absolute position signal is output.

19. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the relative position signal is generated based on motor pulses output according to the rotation of the motor, the relative position signal becoming abnormal due to a malfunction in outputting the motor pulses.

20. (New) A wiper control method comprising:

driving a motor connected to a wiper arm so as to rotate the motor in a forward direction and a reverse direction to thereby reciprocate the wiper arm between an upper turning point and a lower turning point so as to perform a wiping operation;

controlling said driving of the motor according to an absolute position signal and a relative position signal, the absolute position signal being output when the wiper arm is located at a predetermined position, and the relative position signal being output as a function of the rotation of the motor;

mechanically restricting movement of the wiper arm at an upper operation limiting position beyond the upper turning point and a lower operation limiting position beyond the lower turning point by a restriction mechanism; and

reversing a direction of rotation of the motor when the relative position signal becomes abnormal and movement of the wiper arm is restricted by the restriction mechanism.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said reversing a direction of rotation of the motor is performed without using the relative position signal.

22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said reversing the direction of rotation of the motor is performed when the wiper arm is located at either of the upper operation limiting position and the lower operation limiting position and the motor is in a stopped condition due to said mechanically restricting movement of the wiper arm.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the motor is determined to be in a stopped condition when a flow rate of electric current being supplied to the motor exceeds a predetermined level.

24. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the relative position signal is generated based on motor pulses output according to the rotation of the motor, the relative position signal becoming abnormal due to a malfunction in outputting the motor pulses.

25. (New) A wiper control method comprising:

driving a motor connected to a wiper arm so as to rotate the motor in a forward direction and a reverse direction to thereby reciprocate the wiper arm so as to perform a wiping operation;

controlling said driving of the motor according to an absolute position signal and a relative position signal, the absolute position signal being output when the wiper arm is located at a predetermined position, and the relative position signal being output as a function of the rotation of the motor; and

driving the motor at a constant rate and reversing a direction of rotation of the motor at predetermined time intervals when the relative position signal becomes abnormal.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said reversing a direction of rotation of the motor is performed without using the relative position signal.

27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the relative position signal is generated based on motor pulses output according to the rotation of the motor, the relative position signal becoming abnormal due to a malfunction in outputting the motor pulses.

28. (New) A wiper control method comprising:

driving a motor connected to a wiper arm so as to rotate the motor in a forward direction and a reverse direction to thereby reciprocate the wiper arm between an upper turning point and a lower turning point so as to perform a wiping operation;

controlling said driving of the motor according to an absolute position signal and a relative position signal, the absolute position signal being output when the wiper arm is located at a predetermined position, and the relative position signal being output as a function of the rotation of the motor;

reversing a direction of rotation of the motor according to the absolute position signal when the relative position signal becomes abnormal;

mechanically restricting movement of the wiper arm at an upper operation limiting position beyond the upper turning point and a lower operation limiting position beyond the lower turning point by a restriction mechanism; and

reversing the direction of rotation of the motor when the wiper arm is located at either of the upper operation limiting position and the lower operation limiting position and when both the absolute position signal and the relative position signal become abnormal.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising driving the motor at a constant rate and reversing a direction of rotation of the motor at predetermined time intervals when both the absolute position signal and the relative position signal become abnormal and it is not possible to detect whether the wiper arm is located at either of the upper operation limiting position and the lower operation limiting position.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said reversing a direction of rotation of the motor is performed without using the relative position signal.

31. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the relative position signal is generated based on motor pulses output according to the rotation of the motor, the relative position signal becoming abnormal due to a malfunction in outputting the motor pulses.